



STARS Implementation Delayed

The I-MANAGE co-chairs decided to delay the Standard Accounting and Reporting System (STARS) deployment originally scheduled for October 1, 2004. Susan Grant, the new Director of OMBE and Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Energy (DOE), and Rose Parkes, Chief Information Officer at DOE, agreed with the recommendation to delay deployment made by the I-MANAGE Program management team. Director of OMBE/CFO Grant announced factors involved in making this decision via email Tuesday, August 17, 2004. They included:

- Delays in completing the legacy accounting system data clean-up hampered the testing and reconciliation of the data conversion to STARS.
- None of the 27 integrated contractor interfaces are problem-free and much work remains to be done by the Management and Operating contractor community to ensure satisfactory resolution of the problems.
- Other DOE system interfaces need additional work to ensure that they properly integrate with STARS.
- Gaps in functionality remain.

The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) concluded that a No-Go decision was necessary based on the determination by the I-MANAGE Program management team that these issues could not be fully resolved for an October 1, 2004 deployment. Information regarding the rescheduling of STARS Project milestones will be published in a future Communiqué.

DISCAS Data Clean-up Efforts Continue

The migration of accurate, complete, and reliable legacy data from DISCAS and MARS is one of the most critical tasks necessary to ensure the successful deployment of STARS. Field Offices must continue to work with the STARS Project Team to clean up legacy DISCAS data in support of this objective. Bryan Long, STARS Development Team Lead, and Mary Lynch, STARS Deployment Manager, will continue to advise Field Chief Financial Officers (CFO's) of data issues at their respective locations. As these issues are identified, Field CFO's must commit the staff resources necessary to promptly resolve the data problems by the suspense dates provided.

The intensity associated with this effort cannot be reduced until all data clean-up tasks have been completed. The Development Team is analyzing the results of data conversion testing based on DISCAS July month-end data. Please share your data clean-up status with Headquarters and Field management as data conversion issues will continue to be monitored and communicated to the Department's senior leadership.

STARS End User Training to be Rescheduled

The STARS end user training will not be delivered in September as originally planned. All end user courses scheduled to be delivered in Germantown, Albuquerque, and Oak Ridge have been postponed until a new deployment date is determined. A new end user training schedule will be published in plenty of time for students to register for courses and make any necessary travel plans. A future STARS Training Communiqué will provide important information regarding the class registration process, locations, dates, and times of available training.

The STARS Navigation Tutorial remains available to those staff that will be responsible for entering financial transactions to STARS. Please note that you may need to revisit the Navigation Tutorial prior to attending instructor led training. To complete this online course:

1. Download the presentation from the I-MANAGE STARS website at this address:
http://www.mbe.doe.gov/me2-5/i-manage/televideoILearningRegistrationSlides_v5.ppt
2. Access iLearning at this address: <http://mercury.doe.gov:57010/ilearn/en/learner/jsp/login.jsp?site=DOE>
3. Log on to the system with the username and password sent via email from iLearning.

STARS Project Team Remains in Place

The STARS Project Team will remain in place at the same staffing levels determined at the Field CFO's Conference in February 2004. The staff resources provided by the Field CFO's are needed to maintain the momentum on the STARS Project. The Project Team will focus key staff, knowledgeable in their respective STARS functional areas, on identified gaps in functionality and on additional user acceptance testing.

The Team sincerely appreciates the sacrifice made by the Field CFO's and the efforts of all staff involved in the development and implementation of the STARS system. In addition, the Team would like to recognize the efforts of those not directly involved in the Project, but who are dedicated to sustaining ongoing financial operations during the absence of their peers.

IDW Impacted by STARS Decision

STARS is the primary source of data fed to the I-MANAGE Data Warehouse (IDW). Therefore, as a result of the STARS delay, the IDW deployment is also delayed. The IDW and STARS Project Teams will collaborate on the determination of new Go Live dates for both systems. The IDW Project Team will continue to work on the development of reports and the portal interface. The new IDW Go Live date will be announced in a future IDW Communiqué. Please see the information box below if interested in being added to the IDW Communiqué distribution list.

Financial Report Survey Results

In a recent survey, many employees indicated that they used financial reports from DISCAS, but did not enter transactions into the system. Since the I-MANAGE Data Warehouse (IDW) will be updated with STARS transactional data each night, the majority of staff requiring up-to-date financial information will use the IDW and Portal to obtain reports. A core set of STARS and IDW standard reports will be published on the web that can be accessed through the Portal. In addition, the IDW can be queried for specific financial information and custom reports can be created via a user friendly interface.

For more information on IDW and to read previous editions of the IDW Communiqué, visit the I-MANAGE website at <http://www.mbe.doe.gov/me2-5/i-manage/IDWcommuniquet.htm>. To subscribe to future editions of the I-MANAGE communiqué, send an email with the word "subscribe" in the subject line to IDW@hq.doe.gov.

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